



# MEMO



*A joint publication between the N.C. Division of Emergency Management and N.C. Emergency Management Association*

## A Look at the Spring Conference Presentations

**By Gary Jones, Executive Director, NC Emergency Management Association**

State, local and private agencies vested in emergency management will soon converge in Sunset Beach to participate in the North Carolina Emergency Management Association's 2011 Spring All-Hazards Conference, March 13 – 18.

More than 40 sessions are planned for the first three days of the conference, covering a variety of topics. Some programs that should have a broad appeal for all attendees include:

- Andy Mitchell, FEMA assistant administrator for National Training and Education, will discuss the ongoing major **restructuring of FEMA's nation-wide emergency management training** program. This reorganization should interest everyone in the emergency management community since it likely will affect all state/local training activities, certification programs and agency accreditation standards.
- Norma Houston, a lecturer in Public Law and Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government, will discuss **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest** during a general session. She also will conduct **Legal Concerns for the new EM coordinator** and **Liability Issues in Emergency Management**.
- Joe Myers, past North Carolina and Florida State Emergency Management Director, will host a program focusing on **Continuity of Operations Planning** and how best local governments can meet this planning requirement.
- Katherine Galifianakis, manager of mass care at the American Red Cross national headquarters, will discuss **Sheltering Philosophy** including serving people with disabilities and functional needs in general population shelters.
- Johnny Lee, past workplace violence specialist for the North Carolina Office of State Personnel, will work with attendees to **Develop Skills to Prevent and Manage Threats of Violence** especially in the context of an emergency response or a disaster.
- Marty Lawing, Brunswick County manager, and Chris Coudriet, New Hanover County assistant county manager, will look at the typical **Emergency Management Program Through the Eyes of a County Manager**. The session will provide observations regarding what it takes for the local emergency management office to be effective and meet the needs and expectations of elected officials, management, municipalities and the public.
- Tom Hegele, past lead public information officer for the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, the NC Division of Emergency Management and the State Emergency Response Team (SERT), will focus on what every emergency management agency employee should know about the **Basics of Crisis Communication and Dealing with the News Media**.

*Continue*

- Tim Miller, retired NC Division of Emergency Management Western Branch manager, will **Profile the Typical Lost Person** through the use of the “*Lost Person Behavior*” book, the latest search and rescue incident statistics from the International Search and Rescue Incident Database .
- Dr. Allen Chrisman, division head of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Duke University Medical Center, will review **Natural Disasters as Developmental Crises for Children and Adolescents** and discuss effective intervention methods to support both their resiliency and their active coping with the emergency situation.

Other presentations topics include:

- Tourism and disaster preparedness
- Cyber threats
- The proactive partnerships between emergency management and the school systems
- Different aspects of disaster animal operations,
- A National Weather Service look into lessons learned from 2010 and today’s available decision support tools
- N.C. Department of Transportation’s tools for disaster response
- Colonial tank fire in Greensboro.
- Deployable child care operations
- Critical incident stress management
- N.C. State Highway Patrol’s aircraft operations

For more information on the conference and the programs or to register, visit the NCEMA website at <https://ncema.renci.org>.

## **NC HART Train on Crowder’s Mountain**

Nearly 80 National Guards troops, first responders and emergency management officials from more than a dozen agencies across the state spent Feb. 22 – 24 rehearsing how to rescue survivors in mountainous terrain. The NC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (NCHART) practiced rescuing three hikers suspended from and trapped on rock ledges in isolated areas as they trained at Crowder’s Mountain State Park in Gaston County .

Crowder’s Mountain made this training one of the most difficult to date for NCHART teams because of the difficult terrain crews had to work in. It also marked the first time the group used live volunteers with the National Guard Lakota LUH-72 helicopter for such missions.

Managed by N.C. Emergency Management, the NCHART program combines the expertise of local rescue technicians with the training, maintenance and capabilities of the N.C. National Guard and N.C. Highway Patrol aviation units. Twenty-eight highly trained technicians are positioned throughout the state and can be called upon in a moment's notice. In their off hours, they work as first responders or emergency medical technicians with local fire or EMS teams.

The group partnered with staff from Crowder's Mountain State Park to conduct the training.

Participating agencies included: N.C. Emergency Management, N.C. National Guard, Gaston County EMS and Fire, Asheville Fire/Rescue, Burke County EMS, Cary Fire Dept., Charlotte Fire Dept., Greenville Fire Dept., New Bern Fire Dept., Rocky Mount Fire Dept., South Orange Rescue Squad and Transylvania EMS.



*NC HART teams train at Crowder's Mountain State Park last month.*

## Severe Weather Awareness Week to Include Statewide Tornado Drill

Severe Weather Awareness Week is Feb. 27 - March 5. The National Weather Service will highlight hazards associated with severe weather including thunderstorms, lighting, tornadoes and flooding.

In 2010, the National Weather Service issued approximately 90 tornado warnings for North Carolina and recorded 26 tornadoes. Twelve of those tornadoes had winds around 100 miles per hour or greater. Combined, they caused at least \$24 million in damages. In addition, the NWS issued more than 700 severe thunderstorm warnings, and recorded nearly 900 incidents of severe thunderstorms with winds of 58 mph, some with large hail. Only Kansas, Texas and Nebraska reported more severe weather activity.

On March 2, school systems across the state, as well as public and private organizations, will participate in the statewide tornado drill issued by the National Weather Service at 9:30 a.m.

Preparation for any type of severe weather means having a family disaster plan and an emergency supply kit assembled and in a location that is easy to access during an emergency. More information on tornadoes and overall emergency preparedness is available at [www.ReadyNC.org](http://www.ReadyNC.org).

## SAR Exercise in Western N.C.

The Burke County Search and Rescue Team will conduct a full scale exercise March 30 – April 3 at the Steele Creek Park and Campground in Burke County. The team will use search and dog crews as part of the simulated response and recovery efforts in a search for lost hikers.

The Steele Creel Basin area, located in Morganton, is a wilderness environment with steep rocky terrain, many creeks and streams and should provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate rescue techniques and maneuvers.

The following agencies are participating in the exercise: NC Division of Emergency Management, Burke County Emergency Services-Burke County SAR TEAM, Western Piedmont Community College, North Carolina Search & Rescue Advisory Council and Burke County REACT. Anyone wanted to participate may register in TERMS.

For more information or to sign up, visit <http://terms.ncem.org/TRS/>.

## National Hurricane Center Visit

***By Rebecca Christenbury, Currituck County Emergency Management***

Each year, the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL, holds a week-long hurricane planning course for emergency managers and local government officials. This past January, four individuals from North Carolina were able to attend the course: Chris Smith, Hertford County Emergency Management Coordinator; Billy Winn, Gates County Emergency Management Coordinator; Bobby Outten, Dare County Manager; and Anthony Marzano, Brunswick County Emergency Services Director.

The course covered a wide-range of topics including forecast process and uncertainty, understanding NHC text and graphical products, understanding forecast probabilities, storm surge modeling, effective decision making, and basic HURREVAC training.

“I think the class really put in perspective all the different aspects that go into predicting the hurricanes life cycle and its probabilities. I did not realize until this class how many probabilities that have to be considered in the predictions,” said Smith.

*Continued on next page.*



*Billy (maroon shirt, center), Chris (tallest, center), Bobby (white shirt, left of Billy) and Anthony (black shirt with white path) attend the hurricane planning course for emergency managers and county officials at the National Hurricane Center in January 2011.*



Winn added even though the science is phenomenal, there are still so many “unknowns” in predicting.

“The class was very beneficial for me as a decision maker in Gates County. The information that we received directly from national forecasters will be invaluable during hurricane and tropical events, as well as, basic weather events that affect my county. We were able to get a handle on how crucial forecast decisions are made on the federal level,” Winn concluded.

## **NCPHRST Hold Webinar**

***By Rebecca Christenbury, Currituck County Emergency Management***

North Carolina Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams (PHRST) One and Two held a Suspicious Substance Response webinar on Feb. 3. The objectives of the seminar were to:

- Promote local partnership and planning to enhance response to unknown or suspicious substance incidents
- Describe specific agency roles and responsibilities
- Build a foundation for consistent response plans throughout Regions 1 and 2.

Nash County was highlighted for its efforts in developing a suspicious substance response guide (SSRG).

The Nash County LEPC and various other agencies including county emergency management, local law enforcement, local public health, PHRST I, Regional Response Team I, Nash Health Care and the N.C. State Laboratory of Public Health developed the guide after responding to multiple suspicious substance incidents over the last several years.

The Nash County SSRG now serves as a template for other counties within PHRST Regions I and II.

For more information about the webinar or to obtain a copy of the webinar, contact Rick Scott, Industrial Hygienist, PHRST I & II at [wsscott@pittcountync.gov](mailto:wsscott@pittcountync.gov).

## **BEST Conference Draws Record Crowd**

***By Amy Ikerd, Wake County Emergency Management***

The Wake County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held their 21st annual Business, Environmental and Safety Training (BEST) conference Feb. 9 at N.C. State’s McKimmon Center. More than 400 public safety, industrial hygienists, public health and emergency management professionals from across North Carolina and parts of Virginia gathered for the event. It was the largest attendance recorded for the annual conference.

The BEST conference, which is the primary outreach activity for the Wake County LEPC, offers sessions relating to environmental compliance, reporting industrial hygiene, Safety and Health and Emergency Planning and Response. Speakers at this year’s conference included N.C. Sen. Josh Stein who spoke about the importance of getting involved with the LEPC to build relationships among private industry and first responders. Rear Admiral Kevin Meeks from Oklahoma City spoke about the resources U.S. Public Health could offer in the event of a public health outbreak or emergency. U.S. Public Health, which has an office in Butner, has a medical team of doctors and staff nurses that could deploy anywhere in the United States to offer assistance in the event of a public health emergency.



*Crowd listens to speakers at the BEST conference on Feb. 9.*

This conference is offered to attendees free of charge thanks to the generosity of local business sponsors and exhibitors.

## New Hire to Improve LEPC Program

Patrick Lake joined NC Division of Emergency Management last month as the Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act (or EPCRA) program manager. Lake will primary work with more than 70 local emergency preparedness committees (LEPC) across the state to provide them assistance as they carry out their federal mandate of planning for chemical accidents.

Lake is eager to continue the work started by Randolph Harrison in growing and developing LEPCs in North Carolina. Patrick may be reached at 919-733-3327 or [plake@ncem.org](mailto:plake@ncem.org).

Look for more articles about the LEPC program in future editions of the mEMo.



*Patrick Lake*

## NCEM Profile: Doug Haas *Two Passions Fuel This Coordinator*



*Doug Haas, NCEM employee, has two passions — area coordinator by day, woodturning enthusiast by night.*

Doug Haas has been employed by the N.C. Division of Emergency Management since 1995, serving in a number of different capacities, but all in eastern North Carolina. He started as an extension education and training officer when the division was segmented into six areas and has worked as the area coordinator for division four since the 1997 realignment.

When you talk to a group of his peers, the same key words are often repeated: knowledgeable, helpful, detailed, thoughtful, dependable and an outside-the-box thinker.

Gary Jones, executive director of the N.C. Emergency Management Association and an ex-NCCEM manager put it this way: “Doug always wanted to help people and he enjoyed spending time helping someone else meet their goals.”

“When I have a problem, there is one person I can count on to listen to me, analyze and research my problem and then come back with a solution that’s beneficial to my county,” said Carol Tyndall, Jones County Emergency Management Director.

Sixteen years at any job for one person is a long time, especially in a job where there is constant interaction with county officials and responding to the emergencies that affects his area. The latest challenge has been the wildfires burning in eastern North Carolina.

“What keeps me motivated is working with my county coordinators and their folks,” said Haas. “I see the work they put in and it makes me want to work just as hard to match their dedication to help anyway I can. I truly enjoy it.”

“Doug has a passion for working in the emergency management profession and you see it in his strong relationships with the counties,” said Mike Sprayberry, NCEM deputy director.

But what many people don’t know is that Haas has a second passion; the passion for woodturning. Woodturning is the name for woodworking using a wood lathe to spin turned objects from a single piece of wood.

“A wood lathe is the equipment that spins to cut and shape a piece of wood into the object you’re creating,” explained Haas.

Haas was first introduced to woodturning back in junior high school where he turned his first piece, a board that balanced on a turned roller. Haas said it's a balance board that you try to stand on and roll back and forth

"At my junior high school, there were wood lathes in classes I took. I think the interest started there. I was able to continue turning some in college," said Haas.

After school, he had planned to get a lathe. But as time stretched on - life happened. Fresh from college, he married his wife, Georgeann. Together, they raised and put two daughters through college, so purchasing a wood lathe became less of a priority.

"Since leaving college, I wanted to continue turning, but other needs and wants were more important," said Haas.

Today's market value for a quality lathe ranges from \$1,000 to more than \$12,000.

Haas put his woodworking passion on the back burner for the time being. During that same time, his emergency management passion gained intensity. It is one that still burns today and consumes much of his time as the area four coordinator for Cumberland, Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Pender and Sampson counties.

It wasn't until 2007 that the passion for woodturning returned when Georgeann surprised him with a wood lathe for his birthday.

"The interest definitely came back when she gave me the lathe. She knew it was something I had missed. It was exciting!" said Haas.

Haas began turning wood again. He soon joined the Wilmington chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). The AAW is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of woodturning. The group provides education, information and organization to those interested in turning wood.

AAW holds an annual symposium which features three days of woodturning demonstrations and meetings lead by experts in woodturning. During this symposium, an AAW Chapter Collaborative Challenge is held where chapters across the county exhibit their collective woodturning ability by producing a project collaborated on by no fewer than six members.

"The 3C competition challenges members to work together with one goal while transforming a concept into reality," said Byron Rosebrugh, the Wilmington Area Woodturning Association (WAWA) chapter president.

WAWA is made up of about 60 men and women from a variety of professions including emergency management, law, medicine, nuclear and technological engineering, information technology, machinery and others.

Starting with a simple question posed by Haas, the Wilmington chapter began organizing and entering AAW competitions.

"I wrote an e-mail to our club president asking if we had ever considered entering the Chapter Challenge. I didn't get a reply, but at the next meeting he announced that we were going to submit an entry, and I was heading it up. That was in mid-January and we had to have our entry to New Mexico in June," said Haas.

This is where his two passions were forced to merge. By spending 16 years in emergency management and working in incident command when responding to disasters, it was a natural fit to organize the chapter's entry the same way he has always organized disaster response.

"ICS is the best management system I know, so that's what I used. We all know that it is a great way to manage planned events, as well as emergencies," said Haas.



*Kachina doll chess set submitted by WAWA chapter to the 2009 AAW 3C Competition.*



Haas built his team according to ICS protocol. He had logistics, operations, finance and planning sections and members who performed specific roles within each.

“My logistics team identified and secured the materials we needed. The operations team was broken into different ‘task forces’, to build different components of the project. They were made up of an engineer (team leader) that completed drawings for his or her component(s), and managed a team that built and assembled the components. Our planning team tracked everything, including the project status, time lines, writing summaries and taking pictures at different stages along the building process; eventually they became our historian,” said Haas.

The group used the ICS philosophy to compete in two competitions. Haas adds that none of the team members knew we were using ICS. For the 2009 competition, they built a chess set

complete with Kachina dolls

as chess pieces. The chess set had a 32 inch square checker board table. The chess pieces ranged in height from nine inch pawns up to twelve inch kings. All were designed, decorated and painted to look like Kachina dolls to capitalize on the Southwest theme of the symposium.

“Although, we didn’t win, the learning experience and lessons learned prepared us for the 2010 competition,” said Haas.

The 2010 competition and symposium was held in Hartford, Connecticut, an area known for its hydro-powered businesses back in the 1800’s. The chapter decided to create a 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale replica of an 1850’s woodworking shop powered by a waterwheel. The operations section built six machines that were powered by belts running off of a main shaft.

“The water wheel alone consisted of more than 250 pieces in a segmented style with spokes and a hub rotating on the power axle. We circulated water with a small pump to flow through a wood-turned duct system to fall on top of the wheel,” said Rosbrugh.

The factory replica was so impressive it took best-in-show; the competition’s top prize. Haas adds although other North and South Carolina chapters have entered the Challenge, we became the first in the Carolinas to win best-in-show!

Following the symposium, the woodworking shop was featured on the cover of the October 2010 issue of *American Woodturner* magazine, and has been covered by several news outlets. It has also been exhibited in museums and fairs, with more scheduled this year.

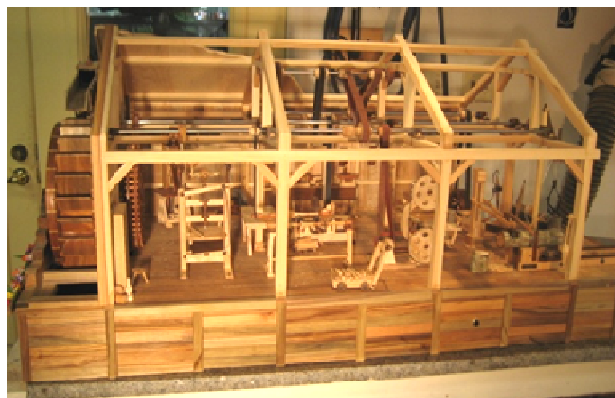
“We hope that it will eventually find a home in one of North Carolina’s museums,” said Haas.

One ironic twist is that some of the 17 people who worked on the project live in Duplin, Onslow and Pender counties, Haas’ work area!

Most recently the group built a Spring Pole lathe, similar to one seen on *The Woodwrights’s Shop with Roy Underhill*.

“We were asked to participate in a Civil War re-enactment on the grounds of the Cameron Art Museum. So we built a lathe like they would have used during that time. We turned spinning top’s for some of the children visiting the event,” said Haas.

Having a passion for anything makes living worthwhile. But having two passions that can work towards a common goal is indescribable. For Haas, he has the best of both worlds when his passions combine.



*1/12th scale replica of an 1850’s woodworking power shop powered by water that won best-in-show at 2010 AAW 3C Competition.*



*Water Wheel of 1850’s replica woodworking power shop. Below: inside view of a machine powered by running water.*



## Staff Announcements

### State:

**Brian Barnes** – Risk Management program coordinator, Planning Section, 919-715-8578, [bbarnes@ncem.org](mailto:bbarnes@ncem.org). Brian comes to NCEM from the Buies Creek Volunteer Fire Department. He replaces John Stienhauer.

**Patrick Lake** – Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act program manager, Planning Section, 919-733-3327, [plake@ncem.org](mailto:plake@ncem.org). Patrick comes to NCEM from the private sector. He replaces Randolph Harrison.



4713 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4713

**Questions and Comments can be directed to:**

Cory Grier, Public Affairs Section  
919-733-3824 Email: [cgrier@ncem.org](mailto:cgrier@ncem.org)

***"In the Business of Saving Lives and Protecting Property"***

*The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management was formed in 1977 to coordinate the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities of all agencies for emergency management within North Carolina. It performs this mission by planning, organizing, staffing, equipping, training, testing and activating emergency management programs during times of need.*